I...IS IT TRUE?

WHAT YOU SAID...

YEAH...

YESTERDAY IT ALL CAME BACK TO ME.

I'M ACTUALLY... A SOLDIER, IMPLANTED WITH ERI-CELLS AS PART OF THE ERI NEE-CHAN COPYING PROTOCOL.

BUT SINCE I'M A FAILED SUBJECT, I NEVER GOT ASSIGNED A SOLDIER NUMBER...

THAT SOUNDS TOUGH... SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE FEELING SO DOWN?

...

WELL, I'M JUST A POOR COPY, YOU SEE.

AHH... I REALLY WANTED A NUMBER, TOO.

HUH?

REI-CHAN... I THINK SHE WAS JUST LYING, YOU KNOW?

ERI-SAN!! A NUMBER!!

PLEASE GIVE HER A NUMBER!!

WHAT ARE ERI-CELLS?

SHE'S CERTAINLY A VERY ACCEPTING PERSON.

APPARENTLY SHE GOT TRICKED INTO NOT WEARING UNDERWEAR UNDER HER YUKATA THAT TIME, TOO.

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT REI-CHAN THAN I AM ABOUT AMI-CHAN.

OKAAAY!!

REI-CHAN, TINA-CHAN.

IT'S ALREADY LATE, SO YOU SHOULD HURRY HOME.

AH!! I'M SORRY THAT WE STAYED SO LATE!!

SO YOU WERE FOOLING ME, WERE YOU, YOU SMARTASS?!

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW?!

THE CAFÉ TERRACE AND ITS GODDESSES

#153 A Lonely Person

HII
FSHHH
P
P
UGH! SIT DOWN WHILE YOU'RE RINSING OFF, WE'RE BOTH TRYING TO WASH IN HERE, YOU KNOW!
GAH!!
A HA HA HA!! SORRY, SORRY!!
BUT THIS IS KINDA NOSTALGIC, HUH? THE TWO OF US BATHING TOGETHER AGAIN.
WELL...
YEAH.

OH... COME TO THINK OF IT...

...WHEN ARE YOU GONNA GO AND PROPOSE?!

HUH? THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

OKAY! TAKU-NII DEFINITELY LIKES YOU, SO IT'LL ALL BE FINE, ERI NEE-CHAN!!

...
RIGHT.

...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HEY...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, AMI-CHAN?

WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER, EVEN IF YOU LOST WHEN WE WERE SPARRING, YOU'D JUST SAY "I'LL KEEP TRYING UNTIL I WIN!" AND NEVER GIVE UP, RIGHT?

BUT DESPITE THAT... WHEN I SAID YOU'D GOTTEN WEAKER, YOU DIDN'T SEEM BOTHERED AT ALL.

WEREN'T YOU FRUS-TRATED?

I WAS JUST COPYING YOU BECAUSE I ADMIRED YOUR KARATE SKILLS, ERI NEE-CHAN.

AH...

WAIT!

...

DARN...

I THOUGHT DISPARAGING HER THAT STRONGLY WOULD GET HER MOTIVATED AGAIN.

I CAME TO REALIZE THAT A COPY CAN NEVER WIN AGAINST THE REAL DEAL.

THAT'S ALL.

CLICK

"!!"

A-/

ARE YOU REALLY NOT GOING TO TAKE PART IN THE TRAINING—

W...WAIT! THIS CONVERSATION ISN'T OVER, YOU KNOW?!

ILLNESSES THAT CAN CAUSE AN IDIOT TO SUDDENLY GET MORE SERIOUS...
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
LET'S SEE...

...

...

HM?

RATTLE

ガラッ

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TMP

TMP

HEY.

ARE YOU HALF ASLEEP?

...

HUP...

CAN I SLEEP NEXT TO YOU?

...

THIS AGAIN?

...

...

...DO WHAT YOU WANT.

...UH-HUH.

HAYA-CCHI, I...

REALLY LIKE ERI NEE-CHAN AND TAKU-NII, YOU KNOW.

...WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

SO THIS TAKU-NII IS THE GUY ERI-SAN'S GOING TO PROPOSE TO?

YEAH...

THEY USED TO PLAY WITH ME WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER.

...SO I REALLY DO...

...WANT THE TWO OF THEM TO GET MARRIED.

...

I SEE...

SO IF THOSE TWO GET MARRIED...

...ARE YOU GOING TO GO BACK HOME?

...!

HA HA...

YOU REALLY DO SEE THROUGH EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU, HAYACCHI?

YOU WERE RAISED BY YOUR GRAND-MOTHER TOO, AFTER ALL.

BESIDES, ANYONE COULD GUESS THAT MUCH FROM HOW YOU'VE BEEN LATELY.

WELL, IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE PROPOSAL IS A SUCCESS OR NOT, BUT...

...ERI NEE-CHAN HAS... BEEN HELPING TO LOOK AFTER GRANDMA THIS WHOLE TIME.

WHILE I'VE BEEN HERE DOING WHAT I WANTED TO DO.

AND SHE STAYED WITH HER THE WHOLE TIME SHE WAS UNWELL.

SINCE ERI-SAN WILL BE MOVING IN WITH HER HUSBAND.

BUT THINGS WON'T BE THE SAME ONCE SHE GETS MARRIED.

...YEAH.

AND EVEN THOUGH SHE'S RECOVERED NOW, SHE'S STILL OLD, SO ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN TO HER.

AND THEN GRANDMA WILL END UP ALL ALONE...

GRANDMA WORKED REALLY HARD TO RAISE ME...

...SO I DON'T WANT HER TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT!

A DIF-FERENT REASON?

SO THAT'S WHY YOU TURNED DOWN THE INVITATION TO COMPETE?

YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT UNIVERSITY, SO YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GET THEIR HOPES UP?

IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE, HAYACCHI.

...IS THAT SO?

I HAVE A DIFFERENT REASON FOR THAT...

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE TRAINING CAMP.

WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?

SO...

...I'M SORRY.

WELL ...

AKANE-SAN TOLD ME WHEN OUKA-SAN LEFT FOR FRANCE, YOU KNOW?

SINCE YOU'RE A LONELY PERSON, LOSING FAMILY IS THE HARDEST THING FOR YOU TO DEAL WITH.

BUT...

I'LL BE FINE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

SO I'LL RESPECT YOUR DECISION.

THIS IS A DECISION YOU MADE ON YOUR OWN, EVEN THOUGH YOU HATE CHANGE MORE THAN ANYTHING.

...

YEAH, I WILL.

I FEEL LIKE IF SHE KNEW ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL, SHE'D JUST END UP WORRYING.

OH...AND KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM ERI NEE-CHAN, OKAY?

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU JUST SAID, BUT THANKS.

YOU SHOULD UNDER-STAND!

...

WHAT?

WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEEDED?

I REALLY AM SORRY...

I TOLD YOU, IT'S FINE.

NOW GO TO SLEEP.

The Café Terrace and Its Goddesses

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